

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /058 W

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R 100940Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8768

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0198

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH MY

SUBJ: GOM AMBASSADOR DEPARTS FOR PEKING; FRICTION IN GOM-PRC
RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: GOM AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO PRC SCHEDULED TO DEPART KL FOR PEKING JAN. 11; THERE IS STILL NO DEFINITE WORD ON ARRIVAL OF PRC MAN HERE. MEANWHILE CERTAIN MINOR FRICTIONS HAVE DEVELOPED OVER ISSUES SUCH AS HOUSING FOR PRC EMB AND UNANNOUNCED IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL BY PRC DIPLOMATS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PRC MAP SHOWING TSENGMU REEF LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES OFF SARAWAK COAST AS BEING WITHIN CHINESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. END SUMMARY.

2. "NEW STRAITS TIMES" SAID TODAY THAT GOM AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO PRC, HASHIM BIN SULTAN, WILL LEAVE KUALA LUMPUR FOR PEKING
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ON JAN. 11. ON JAN. 9, SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF GOM

STILL HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD ON ARRIVAL DATE FOR PRC AMBASSADOR WANG YU-PING, ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SOON. MFA OFFICIAL DENIED ARRIVAL POSTPONED PENDING ARRANGEMENT OF PERMANENT QUARTERS FOR PRC EMBASSY (EMBASSY STILL HOUSED IN MERLIN HOTEL), AND ADDED THAT PRC APPEARED TO BE ON VERGE OF CLOSING DEAL WITH HONG KONG BASED YIP FONG COMPANY TO RENT 7.8 ACRE ESTATE WITH OPTION TO BUY. HOUSING FOR PRC EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROBLEM HERE, AND MFA REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF GOM-CONTROLLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UDA) WHICH OFFERED CHOICE OF SEVERAL PROPERTIES, ALL OF WHICH UNSATISFACTORY TO PRC.

3. MEANWHILE, PRC EMBASSY HAS RUFFLED FEATHERS BY UNANNOUNCED TRIP OF CHARGE TO PENANG, INCLUDING COURTESY CALL BY HIM ON PENANG CHIEF MINISTER. GOM HAD CIRCULATED NOTE TO FOREIGN MISSIONS REQUESTING THAT MFA BE INFORMED OF ALL IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL BY DIPLOMATS; IN ADDITION, CALLS ON SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS (SUCH AS THE CHIEF MINISTER) ARE NORMALLY ARRANGED BY MFA PROTOCOL. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, CHINESE WERE AWARE OF THESE PROCEDURES.

4. OLD BUGABOO OF OVER-REACTION BY MALAYSIAN CHINESE HAS CONTINUED TO BE IRRITANT IN RELATIONS. A GROUP OF CHINESE GUILDS AND ASSOCIATIONS IN PENANG HAD ANNOUNCED PLANS TO PREPARE WELCOME FOR PRC AMBASSADOR UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN MALAYSIA; GOM HAS INFORMED THESE GROUPS THAT GOVERNMENT QUITE CAPABLE OF PREPARING WELCOME, AND HAS INSTRUCTED THEM TO SCUTTLE PLANS. CROWD REACTION DURING RECENT TOUR OF PRC BASKETBALL TEAM ALSO SOMEWHAT DISTRESSING TO GOM OFFICIALS, BECAUSE ETHNIC CHINESE WERE VOCIFEROUS IN SUPPORT OF PRC TEAM.

5. PRC INSISTED THAT TICKET PRICES FOR BASKETBALL TOUR BE SET LOW, AND TOUR INCURRED DEFICIT (TO BE PAID BY CONCERNED MALAYSIAN ORGANIZATIONS) DESPITE SELLOUT CROWDS. NEVERTHELESS GOM IS INVITING PRC VOLLEYBALL TEAM TO VISIT MALAYSIA, AND HOPES TO HAVE PRC PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL PING PONG MEET PLANNED FOR KL.

6. TO LIST OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHICH AWAIT ARRIVAL OF
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PRC AMBASSADOR FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION (INCLUDING STATUS OF STATELESS CHINESE AND VOICE OF MALAYAN REVOLUTION) GOM HAS NOW ADDED PRC CLAIM TO TSENGMU REEF, WHICH IS LOCATED 20

MILES OFF THE SARAWAK COAST, AND ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL IS "CLEARLY WITHIN OUR CONTINENTAL SHELF".

7. COMMENT: IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THESE FRICTIONS

HAVE NOT REALLY DISTURBED THE COURSE OF GOM-PRC RELATIONS,
AND THE GOM IS STILL PLEASED WITH ITS DECISION TO ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC. END COMMENT.
UNDERHILL

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